

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

Claims 1-116 (canceled).

117. (original) In a method of packing toner in a toner container including a sack formed of a flexible material and a toner outlet and deformable in accordance with an air pressure to thereby vary a capacity thereof, said toner container is packed with the toner with said sack reduced in capacity beforehand.

118. (original) A method as claimed in claim 117, wherein said toner is packed with the toner with air being sucked out of said toner container.

Claims 119-138 (canceled).

139. (new) An image forming system using a toner container including a toner outlet, said image forming system comprising:

a developing section; and

a suction pump, wherein toner dispensed through the toner outlet of the toner container is drawn by said suction pump to said developing section.

140. (new) The system of claim 139, further comprising a toner conduit, wherein the toner is drawn by said suction pump through said toner conduit to said developing section

141. (new) The system of claim 139, wherein said suction pump comprises an air delivery port connected to said developing section either directly or via a second conduit.

142. (new) The system of claim 139, wherein when the toner container is mounted to the image forming system, the toner is drawn out through the toner outlet at least in part by gravitational force.

143. (new) The system of claim 139, further comprising an air pump, wherein toner is driven from the toner container by a stream of air supplied by the air pump into the toner container.

144. (new) An image forming system using a toner container including a toner outlet, said image forming system comprising:

a mating portion adapted to mate with the toner outlet of the toner container in a mating position; and

a toner container receptacle portion having angled walls shaped to allow the toner container to be guided into said mating position wherein the toner outlet of the toner container is mated to said mating portion, when the toner container is dropped or thrown into the receptacle portion.

145. (new) An image forming system using a toner container, said image forming system comprising:

a mating portion adapted to mate with a mouth of the toner container, when the mouth of the toner container faces a downward direction.

146. (new) The image forming system of claim 145, wherein said mating portion forms a hermetically closed seal with the mouth of the toner container.

147. (new) The image forming system of claim 145, wherein said mating portion fits tightly in or around the mouth of the toner container.

148. (new) A toner container for storing toner to be replenished via a toner outlet, said toner container comprising:

a container body; and

shutter means coupled to the toner outlet for selectively opening or closing said toner outlet, wherein said shutter means includes

opening/closing means,

a resilient member coupled to said opening/closing means to bias said opening/closing means to a closed position which prevents toner from exiting from said toner container, unless said toner container is positioned in an image forming apparatus, and

support means adapted to support said opening/closing means and said resilient member on said container body.

149. (new) The toner container of claim 148, wherein said resilient member constantly biases said opening/closing means from an opening position toward a closing position, and said shutter means includes means for maintaining said opening/closing means in said closing position.

150. (new) The toner container of claim 148, wherein said support means includes a through hole which allows communication between an inside and an outside of said toner container and is closed when said opening/closing means is in a closed position.

151. (new) The toner container of claim 148, further comprising a mating portion for forming a hermetically closed seal when said opening/closing means is in a closed position.